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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1910.

CUT DOWN THE BILL.

If a Hitchcock could come to Virginia and lay plans for effecting economy in city and county government, he would achieve a wonderful saving by adjusting the fee system of compensation of county and city officers on a fair and equitable salary basis. In so doing he would destroy the most undemocratic feature of the government of this State. Our belief in this matter has been strengthened by reading an abstract of a recent decision of the Court of Appeals handed down by Judge Buchanan, about which we have received a very strong personal letter from a Commonwealth's Attorney in a certain county in this State. Our correspondent refers to the decision as "an able one" and rightly declares that it "should be read by every tax-payer of the State, and, incidentally, by some of the officeholders."

The facts of the case were: In Rockingham county the clerk presented an account to the supervisors, asking that he be allowed \$34.75 for copying and certifying the treasurer's list of qualified voters of the county for the year 1910. The supervisors allowed him \$23.37 for copying and certifying the list and \$17.50 for the cost of printing it. Appeal to the circuit court was made by the clerk, but the court sustained the supervisors. From that decision an appeal was taken to the Court of Appeals, and that court affirmed the decision of the circuit court, but held that the item of \$47.50 should not have been allowed, as there was no authority of law for it. The court further declared, as our correspondent, that the clerk was charging eleven times the amount the treasurer received for making out the list, yet the treasurer's work was more laborious than that of the clerk. The decision is concurred in by the entire court.

Our correspondent says further in his letter, which relates to the fee system in its entirety:

"It has doubtless been the case in practically all of the counties and cities of the State that the clerks have received at least ten times the sum for this service to which they were entitled and that they do not voluntarily refund the exorbitant fee exacted will be required to do so when it is called to the attention of the proper authorities. It will be a severe blow to some of the officeholders and the loss of a snug sum which they doubtless thought secure, but their loss will be the people's gain."

The Rockingham case ought to awaken the people to the fact that the fee system can be severely abused and that something ought to be done to make the price paid for work reasonable in all circumstances. In choosing representatives for the next General Assembly, pledges ought to be exacted from the candidates to take steps looking to the immediate and complete abolition of the fee system, a system which is vicious and extravagant, unsound and unnecessary.

Candidates for the General Assembly are beginning to announce their platforms. Those citizens who believe in the destruction of the fee system should insist that such candidates take a definite and clear stand on the question of the abolition of the fee system, which is much more important to the people of Virginia than to national issues upon which all are agreed. As our friend, the Commonwealth's Attorney, justly and eloquently declares:

"No doubt some will think this demand on the part of the taxpayer the height of presumption bordering on treason, but unless checked the officeholders will become more arrogant and faster into the fangs of the vampire greedier into the vitals of the body politic."

The case is with you, voters of Virginia.

MAKING THEM WORK.

Peaceful revolution is threatened in Washington. The press dispatches say that the capital is stirred to intense indignation because President Taft is ordering that government employees in the various Federal Departments shall work seven and one-half hours the day day instead of seven hours. This is necessary to carry out the Administration's policy of economical management of the Government's business. Without waiting for the President to issue the order, Postmaster-General Hitchcock has been making his whole department work until half past six in the evening, but in overworking them he has not spared himself and his immediate assistants who are working with him in flying the groundwork for reforms and economies in the department. Hitchcock himself, it is said, works about half the night.

The decision of the President is arousing a chorus of protests from the clerks themselves, from boarding house keepers, street railway authorities, and many other classes of citizens. This

is easily explained, for a very great proportion of the population of Washington is composed of government employees, their kindred and friends.

A seven and one-half hour day seems thoroughly reasonable. Government clerks are not overworked, many of them are underworked. It is about time that the indolent gentlemen known as "Laborers" in the Senate, whose only and delightful labor is to receive a salary and dispose of it, should now do some real work. It is about time that some of the myriad assistants and assistants to assistants get busy. If more work shall be done, unnecessary offices may be dispensed with.

Government clerks get thirty days leave of absence every year, with full pay. They get the numerous public holidays. They have a liberal allowance for sick leave. The lower grades of employees are unusually well paid. Surely they are faring much better than thousands of less fortunate clerks in private offices, who would be glad to have the chance to live in Washington and enjoy the unusually interesting life of that town and its educational advantages. If the Government clerks work eight hours, it would be just as well.

UNLIKE.

The New York Evening Post inquires why there should be objection to engraving the likeness of Brigham Young on the silver service to be presented to the battleship Utah, adding:

"Are we not wiping out all historical issues of the past and forgiving everybody for everything? With Robert E. Lee in Statuary Hall in his Confederate uniform, why cavil at Brigham Young's honoring a battleship?"

Lee was an admirable character and a wonderful general; Brigham Young was an amazing conqueror of the desert and a remarkable captain of industry.

Such a comparison as this is distasteful to countless Americans, as well as to discriminating students of American history. The cases of the two men are not parallel; there is no basis for parity of reasoning as to them. The only ground for likening Young to General Lee that has been suggested is that both "defied the Government of the United States."

Lee, unwilling to waive his allegiance to Virginia, became the commander of the Confederate forces, which of course defied the United States. Yet this defiance was only such as one constitutional government can offer to another. Lee's army cost the Union thousands of lives, but the blood that was poured out was the blood of men fighting in battle, the blood of foemen fighting in the open.

Young, on the other hand, as the representative of a religious sect and not as the representative of any lawful government or authority, openly defied the United States and its laws. By his orders, hundreds of people were brutally murdered, for no other reasons than that they were not of the Mormon faith and wished to live in Utah with the knowledge and consent of Young, one hundred and forty persons who were traveling through Utah were entrapped, made to disown by the treachery of Mormons, and then foully slaughtered. Only the children under seven years of age were spared. At the instigation of Young, William R. Parrish, a would-be apostate, was murdered. Rosmos Anderson, who wished to marry his step-daughter against the wishes of the ward bishop, had his throat cut by the ecclesiastical executioners, so that his blood might run into his freshly made grave. This with the approval of Young, who declared apostasy practically a capital crime to be atoned for only by having the blood of the offender spilled upon the ground, thus setting up the doctrine of "Blood Atonement."

Brigham Young established a horrible hierarchy. It did not last, but when it existed, life, liberty, and property were unsafe in Utah, liable at any moment to be destroyed by this imperious priest-butcher. The United States was the object of Young's ridicule and defiance, he hated the rest of the nation outside of Utah with a hate that burned red-hot until he died.

In all his life, General Lee was an exemplary character, carrying no enemies, shedding no blood, revering religion, respecting men of other faiths. When the war ended, he advised his people to walk in the way of peace, calmed their troubled souls, and gave in himself an unsurpassed example of obedience to authority and submission to the Government against which he had fought. His personal character was as luminous and unspotted as the personal character of Young was smirched and dark.

Objection against Young is due to the fact that he instigated the murder of scores of American citizens who were innocent of wrong. Young's memory is obnoxious to the people of the United States, because he was a religious fanatic, an apostate of the torch and the sword, who encouraged and built up practices that were repugnant to the religious belief of a majority of his fellow-Americans. The unseen hands of men, women and children butchered in a frenzy of fanatical zeal will restrain any attempt to award to Brigham Young a place of honor in the history of the nation.

NATIONAL CHARACTER.

The Boston Transcript points out that "enrollment at the University of Virginia is maintaining its national character." Statistics support this statement, for the State of Virginia sends but a little more than half of the students to Charlottesville. The South, exclusive of the Old Dominion, sends a little more than a fifth, and the remaining men are from the other sections of the nation.

The exact figures are: Virginia, 33

per cent.; other Middle Atlantic States, 11 per cent.; Southern States, 21 per cent.; Middle West, 6 per cent.; Rocky Mountain and Pacific States, 3 per cent.; New England, 1 per cent.; colonies and foreign countries, 1 per cent.

More apparent is the national aspect of the University when it is shown that thirty-four States and three colonial and foreign States are represented in the institution at Charlottesville. It is now a commonplace thing for graduates of the great preparatory schools of the North, such as Exeter and Andover, to matriculate at Virginia, even though they live in far distant sections of the country and have no traditional reason nor sentiment to incite them to such a course. Many graduates of universities in the North and West, and many more from Southern colleges and universities, find the graduate work of the University of Virginia what they seek and prefer.

While the percentage of non-Southern students at the University of Virginia is perhaps much greater than that at any other Southern institution, a general drift of such students to the Southern colleges and universities is plainly perceptible. At William and Mary last year there were a score or more Northern students who organized themselves into a club, Arizona and Louisiana contributed last year to the student body of Randolph-Macon. Richmond College has been the alma mater of a number of such students. Washington and Lee, the Virginia Military Institute and other institutions in Virginia also contain a number of matriculates from the other side of Mason and Dixon's line.

In the schools and colleges for women, the same fact is to be observed, for they steadily draw from other States and other sections.

Many factors have entered into the drift Southward of students from other sections. The reputations of the various institutions, their history, their long lines of famous alumni, their traditions, the fame of their professors—all these have much to do with the movement. Climate attracts some. Then, too, Southern colleges and universities are rivaling those in other sections in the matter of modern equipment and efficient faculties.

On the other hand, there is a corresponding tendency on the part of Southern students to go to Northern institutions, especially to those which have great graduate schools. No statistics are obtainable, but the percentage of Southern men going North is increasing every year. The interchange of students is doubtless doing much to bring all sections closer together.

A PRECEDENT FOR THE PRESIDENT.

A very learned man in the law has taken up to task with the classic charge that we "nodded" when we declared that John Rutledge was chief justice of the United States. Perhaps we are both right about it, for the question simply is, "Is a chief justice a chief justice when he has been appointed and has served or does it take the confirmation of the senate to make him chief justice?" Strictly and technically speaking, it seems that the confirmation of the advisory and consenting body is required, but we rather think the historians declare that Rutledge was chief justice.

The case of Rutledge was peculiar. He was appointed by President Washington and served for some time as associate justice before he was made chief justice. Stricken by a mortal malady, his mind weakened, there was no way to remove him from the bench, unless the Senate rejected his confirmation, and that was done. In Boston Transcript says that there was some interval between the service of Rutledge as associate justice and chief justice.

The statement was recently made that President Taft smashed a precedent when he elevated Associate Justice White to the chief justiceship. Former Chief Justice C. C. Nett, of the United States Court of Claims, cites a precedent, which proves that President Taft did not break the unwritten rule. Associate Justice Cushing was appointed Chief Justice by Washington.

Justice Nett thus records the interesting story of Cushing's appointment. It is related that on the day when this occurred there was a large dinner party at the president's, and the new chief justice was one of the guests, though ignorant of his appointment. On entering the room, Washington, from the head of the table, directing his look to him, said in an emphatic tone, "The chief justice of the United States will please take his seat on my right," and that the judge was much

affected at the announcement. His commission as chief justice was made and sent to him. He held it for about a week, and then determined, on the ground of ill-health, to resign.

It is to be presumed that, good lawyer that he is, President Taft knew all about the precedent in the case and has quietly chuckled at the statement made in almost every newspaper in the country that he had violated judicial precedent. Speaking of precedents, President Taft has established a new precedent, one which we profoundly hope will be followed by every future Republican president, if there shall be any, and we doubt whether there will be any more. The commendable precedent is that a Republican president should always appoint a Democratic chief justice.

HOME WITH HER FATHER.

"I did not do it; I want to go home with my father."

Spoken in such a low tone that it had to be repeated by her counsel to the jury, this was all that Hattie Le Blanc had to say in her own cause before twelve men who were to decide Wednesday whether or not she was guilty of the murder of her former employer, Clarence F. Glover, in Massachusetts. It was a pathetic spectacle, this sixteen-year-old French girl, against whom unsuccessfully every allegation was made and every battery of the law touched off, brought to this country by people of doubtful character, this little Frenchwoman still unable to speak English, has no friends in the country, could not secure the best legal aid when she was put on trial wholly upon circumstantial evidence. The best plea that was made for her she made herself, the single sentence that is here quoted.

Unconsciously she voiced the prayer of many other foreign girls who come to this country and find it not the paradise of their dreams, longing hopelessly to be back at home with their fathers and their own people.

The record-breaking suffrage dinner was held in New York on Wednesday night. There were six hundred people there. Ever so many pleasant and prophetic things were said about the Cause. Though there were five hundred women there, my dear, a man had to be secured to act as toastmaster, and after Carrie Chapman Catt and Mrs. Snowden had spoken four dreadful men made speeches.

The Roanoke Times refers to Louis D. Brandeis as "Mr. Brandies." Evidently "Crisimus" has already started in Roanoke.

Wonder why Brother Sydenstricker, of the Lynchburg Advance, puts such a big headline over his announcement that Mr. Justice Lamar is an alumnus of Washington and Lee. All readers of the alumni notes in "Ring Tun Phil" will know the reason why.

The Glass campaign conducted by the Lynchburg News is warming up. The News has already used one "bad word."

George Razakles, of Chicago, is a fit rival for Colonel Abe Slapsky, the beer champion of St. Louis. The Chicago man has won a bet by eating broiled quail and drinking a quart of champagne every day for thirty days. No bets like this are being made in Norfolk.

The Government booklet on "The Economical Use of Meat in the Home," designed to add the good wife in reducing the high cost of living, has been sold to only 4,225 subscribers. In fact, it was not nearly as much of a best seller as the interesting brochure of the Department of Agriculture on "The Need of Controlling and Standardizing the Manufacture of Veterinary Tetanus Antitoxin."

Yale graduates all over the country must be secretly laughing at the result of the recent postal card canvass at Yale, the purpose of which was to ascertain whether a Phi Beta Kappa Key is preferable to the "Y" athletic letter. The verdict was that scholarship is more important at Yale and more to be desired than athletic honor. One thousand postal cards were sent out, and 559 answers were received, of which 320 awarded the decision to scholarship. Probably few of these answers were from men who took part in Yale athletics, for there are few men in Yale who wouldn't like to be on the team when the athletes in blue trot out to fight to the stirring air of "Boola, Boola."

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WOMAN FORFEITS RANK BY MARRIAGE TO INFERIOR

BY LA MARQUISE DE PONTENVOY.

WHEREAS in Spain women who have inherited titles transmit them to their husbands by marriage, and while in England a woman retains her rank and precedence in the peerage if she marries a commoner, in Austria a woman forfeits her own rank by marriage to an inferior. Thus, every one of the archduchesses of the sovereign house of Hapsburg who become the wife of a scion of one of the mediatized families, or of the ordinary nobility, loses, ipso facto, forfeited her title of archduchess, her status and prerogatives as a member of the reigning house of Austria, and her rights to the precedence of imperial highness. Archduchess Alice of Austria, for instance, who is marrying Prince Ferdinand Montenuovo, will become thereby a member of the lesser nobility, precisely in the same manner as her cousin, Archduchess Renata, when she married Prince Jerome Radzivil.

It is curious to explain the position of ex-Crown Princess Stephanie, and to set right some misstatements which have appeared with regard to her eldest son, Prince Louis, who lives there, and who is forever occupying the chronicle scandaleuse of the Parisian press.

It is this condition of affairs that is so galling to Stephanie, that she finds life in Austria and Hungary almost intolerable, and that she is equally intolerant in Germany, and if she has refrained from establishing her permanent residence in France, it is because of the position of ex-Crown Princess Stephanie, and to set right some misstatements which have appeared with regard to her eldest son, Prince Louis, who lives there, and who is forever occupying the chronicle scandaleuse of the Parisian press.

Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, Miss Norah Iselin and Miss Harriet Daly, all of New York, sacrificed their American citizenship when they married Count Lazlo Szechenyi, Count Colloredo-Mannfeld and Count Sigray respectively.

Whereas a foreign royal princess who has not lost her status as such by marriage to a subject of Emperor Francis Joseph would be welcomed to the jurisdiction of Austro-Hungarian tribunals, and entitled to the same ex-territorial immunities as a foreign ambassador, ex-Crown Princess Stephanie is subject to the ordinary Austrian and Hungarian courts of law, police regulations, etc. like any other citizen.

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Stephanie can go to Paris whenever she likes at Vienna or at Budapest, but only as Countess Lonyay, and would as the Imperial and royal circle, either as a former archduchess of Austria or as a royal Belgian princess, sooner than submit to the humiliations she remains away. The old Emperor, with his customary chivalry, still calls upon her occasionally when she happens to pass through Vienna, and he is the fact that she was once his daughter-in-law. But in order to emphasize the purely private character of his visits, he comes in uniform, but without his sword, and leaves his A. D. C. in the carriage. She is, moreover, excluded from all those family festivals of the Imperial house of Hapsburg, such as when all its members gathered last summer at Ischl, to congratulate Prince Joseph on his eightieth birthday.

Agence Havas is much too serious and authoritative a concern to pay any attention to mere rumors, being constantly employed by European governments, especially by that of France, to propagate pieces of news which it is desirable should be known. But coming from Stephanie, the Havas people in Paris naturally looked upon the report as well founded.

Stephanie had done this, first of all in order to see how the suggestion would be received in France, and secondly, in order to give the idea of making the appointment to the Austrian Foreign Office, and of forcing its hands. If the report was welcomed at Paris, she was doomed to disappointment, for there was a general outcry in French official circles and among the foreign diplomatic corps on the banks of the Seine against any such appointment, while the Austrian government treated the matter with derision, saying that it had never dreamt of making so preposterous an appointment.

This setback to Stephanie came to her just about the same time as the slight which kept her away from the marriage, at Monaco, of her younger sister, Princess Clementine of Belgium, to Prince Victor Napoleon. She was informed that Italian court etiquette, or rather that of the reigning house of Savoy, which is very strict and analogous to that of Vienna, would be observed at the ceremony, and that in consequence thereof her place there would be, not as a royal princess of Belgium, but as mere Countess Lonyay. That is why she remained away. Her relations with her other sister are best shown by the fact that she has recently had Louise's divorced husband, Prince Philip of Coburg, one of the only survivors of the tragedy of Mayerling, staying with her at her country place in Hungary.

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